[*English*]

Programmes for Development Of Oceans in Western India

6642. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some programmes have been made for the development of oceans in Western India;

(b) if so, the details thereof with progress made so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare some more programmes for development of oceans in Western India according to Internaional standard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The progress achieved under some of the major programmes of the Department of Ocean Development, both of the past and the on-going, including the sea of Western India, is as follows;

(i) Exploration of Living and Non-living Resources

Two research vessels - sagar Kanya and sagar Sampada-have completed 65 cruises in the Exclusive Economic Zone covering oceanographic parameters and bio-mass distribution.

(ii) Wave Energy

Installation of an experimental 150 KW wave power generation system near Trivandrum on the west coast of India is now in the final stages of completion.

(iii) Monitoring and Modelling of Marine Environment

The monitoring and modelling of marine environment under the programme "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System" (CODAPS) is established on the west coast of India also for collection of data on pollution, analysis and implementation of multi-institutional programme.

(iv) National Ocean Information System

Action has been taken to operationalise a National Ocean Information System m (NOIS) to function through 12 marine data centres, including Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Regional Centre of National Institute of Oceanography, Bombay, National Institute of Oceanography, (NIO) Goa, and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Cochin, on the west coast.

(v) Marine Remote Sensing

Information Service

has been initiated to operationalise a national marine remote sensing information service (MARSIS) to operate from five centres including space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, NIO, Goa and CMFRI, Cochin, on the west coast for dissemination of ocean data including potential fishery zones for the benefit of the fishermen.

(vi) Monitoring and Modelling of Sea Level Variation

In order to measure the mean sea level accurately a digital tide gauge is developed in 1991. Action is in progress to establish two modern tied gauge stations at Mormugoa and Bombay on the west coast in addition to 10 more locations in the other parts of the Indian coastline.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) The proposals for new programmes would be included in the VIII Five Year Plan, which is yet to be finalised.

[*Translation*]

Levy On Rice

6643. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued orders tc State Government to impose levy on the rice traders in their respective States;

(b) if so, the names of the States which are not following these orders and the reasons there for?

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra is following the orders of Union Government in regard to imposing levy on rice traders and if not, the reasons therefor,and

(d)whether this would not have an adverse effect on the recovery of levy in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) In accordance with the powers delegated under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, various State Governments/Union Territories have imposed levy on rice by promulgating the levy Orders with Prior concurrence of the Central government.

(b)Bihar has not issued levy orders. The reasons for not doing so have not been intimated by the State Government. Government of Bihar has, however been requested to impose levy for the forth coming marketing season.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Centre For Electronics Design and Technology

6644. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centre for Electronics Design and Technology Centres in the country;